

SEATON URBAN COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1913.



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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1913.

TO THE SEATON URBAN COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

Births The births during the year are 25, a rate of 14·6.

Deaths The deaths number 16, including 1 in the Exeter Hospital and 1 in the Axminster Union. Deducting 1—that of a visitor—we have a death-rate of 8·7 per thousand of the population, which is considerably below the average of the past 10 years.

Age at Death The age at death is shown in Table III. I may summarise it by noting that there were 3 infants, and 8 over 70.

Cause of Death The cause of death is shown in the same Table. Two of the infants only lived a few hours, and the third only 3 days. None of them died from anything connected with unsanitary conditions. There was no death from cancer or tuberculosis—pulmonary or otherwise—or from any zymotic disease.

Notification

There were 9 notifications under the "Infectious Diseases Act"—8 of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Diphtheria. Also 1 under the "Tuberculosis Regulations," 1908—a visitor here for a few weeks. The scarlet fever cases were of a mild type, and were all nursed at home. The infection was clearly imported. Thanks are due to the parents of the children for the thorough manner in which they carried out my instructions as to isolation and disinfection. It was owing to their doing so that what might have been a serious outbreak was limited to 8 cases. I should like to mention that in connection with these cases, and with the view of taking every possible precaution, the County Medical Officer of Health visited the school, and together we examined every child present. The diphtheria case was discovered amongst the show vans on their arrival from a neighbouring town for Bank Holiday. The child was promptly removed to the Exeter Isolation Hospital, and in due course was discharged cured.

Sewage

Everything has been satisfactory as regards the discharge of sewage at the main outfall. No progress has been made with the proposed work at Seaton Hole. The plans still await the sanction of the Local Government Board. An Inquiry was held in May, and it may be necessary to hold another before the scheme is approved. Meantime, the temporary arrangement has worked satisfactorily, and I had no complaint of any nuisance there during the past summer.

Scavenging

The scavenging of the district is efficiently done by the Council. All that is now necessary is that householders should use covered buckets for conveying the house refuse to the cart. It is time that steps were taken to enforce this practice.

Water

The district has an abundant supply of good water. The quantity passing through the meter during the year gives an average of upwards of 67,000 gallons a day. This is equivalent to 39 gallons per head per day of the resident population. There are not many places that are so well served with water.

Milk

We are well supplied with pure milk, and the conditions of distribution are satisfactory.

Dairies Cowsheds

The dairies and cowsheds are inspected from time to time. The dairies are satisfactory. So are most of the cowsheds, but there are still one or two which, though kept clean, are not structurally up-to-date.

Slaughter- houses

The slaughter-houses are inspected quarterly, and at other times, by the Sanitary Inspector, and, from time to time, by the Medical Officer of Health. They are kept clean, and well flushed, and are frequently lime-washed.

Factories Workshops

There are no factories in the district. There are a few workshops where eight or ten workers are employed. The arrangements are satisfactory.

Rainfall

Rain fell on 180 days. The total measured was 29.57 inches. This is 2 inches below the average of the last ten years.

In connection with this Act, I have inspected the few houses that were not included in last year's report. They were all satisfactory. I consider the district to be in good sanitary condition.

The house accommodation for the working classes has been on the whole good. Several small houses have been built during the past year by private enterprise. The Council has now invited tenders for the erection of 12 cottages on a suitable site. When these are completed the supply will be very satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector informs me that during the year he has officially inspected 15 houses and premises. The defects found were trifling, and were promptly remedied without the necessity of statutory notice.

Reviewing this Report, and especially noting the low death rate—the lowest since the formation of the Council—noting also the absence of any death from zymotic disease, it will be seen that the district is in a good sanitary condition.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

H. A. PATTINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Seaton, 31st January, 1914.

